PHIL 4395: CAPSTONE SEMINAR  
FALL 2018  

DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE AND PHILOSOPHY

PROFESSOR

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Office Hours: MW: 11:00PM-2:00PM;  
TR: 11:00PM-12:00PM

Do not hesitate to contact me during regular office hours. You can come and visit, call me or send me an email. Let me know if we need to schedule an appointment for a different time that is convenient for both. Please allow me 24 hours to respond to your emails before you feel abandoned. I will be happy to assist you with any difficulty you may have regarding the course or any question about a particular issue.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is designed for you to reflect on your philosophical progress and to continue to build on fundamental philosophical skills, such as critical analysis, critical thinking, and critical reflection. This course also covers some important methodology for doing research in philosophy.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

• Students will analyse and critically evaluate their philosophical progress  
• Students will build a portfolio including their representative philosophical samples  
• Students will gain a better grasp of the methodology involved in philosophy research

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon completion of the course, you will:

1. Develop specific skills, competencies required by the philosophical profession  
2. Develop skills in expressing yourself orally or in writing
3. Acquire skills in critical analysis by learning how to critically evaluate ideas, arguments, and points of view

**STUDENT LEARNING ASSESSMENT**

Students will develop a portfolio from papers and writing samples that best represent their achievements in the discipline.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment Type</th>
<th>Student Learning Outcome Assessed</th>
<th>Weight as a Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class participation</td>
<td>1, 2, 3</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Portfolio</td>
<td>1, 2, 3</td>
<td>50/75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Paper*</td>
<td>1, 2, 3</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
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</tbody>
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- Class participation includes group or individual discussions, communicating with professor and other members of the class. Lack of communication with professor, i.e., not responding to emails, or missing more than three group or individual meetings will amount to a zero in this category.
- The portfolio should include an introduction justifying the selection of the content material and a critical analysis of the progress made in the degree program.

* A research paper will be required when the samples provided are not deemed sufficient to ascertain an adequate grasp of research methodology. This research paper should be 2000-2500 words double spaced, and it should range between 8 to 10 sources.

Check these websites for help on how to write a philosophy paper:
- [http://www.jimpryor.net/teaching/guidelines/writing.html](http://www.jimpryor.net/teaching/guidelines/writing.html)

**REQUIRED COURSE MATERIALS**

Recommended: *Writing Philosophy* (L. Vaughn) other recommended titles will be offered in due course.

**THE ANGELO STATE UNIVERSITY HONOR CODE**

Angelo State University expects its students to maintain complete honesty and integrity in their academic pursuits. Students are responsible for understanding the Academic Honor Code, which is contained in both print and web versions of the *Student Handbook*. 
In other words, when you submit your work, you claim that the work is yours. If someone else wrote it for you or you got it from someone else (internet, other student’s class...), then you are not the author and thus will get a zero for that assignment. Any idea that is not yours should be properly referenced.

DISABILITIES

Please let me know if you have any special need due to any learning disability. Persons with disabilities which may warrant academic accommodations must contact the Student Life Office, Room 112 University Center, in order to request such accommodations prior to any accommodations being implemented. You are encouraged to make this request early in the semester so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS

A student who intends to observe a religious holy day should make that intention known in writing to the instructor prior to the absence. A student who is absent from classes for the observance of a religious holy day shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment scheduled for that day within a reasonable time after the absence.

COURSE OUTLINE AND SCHEDULE

Students will meet with professor periodically to assure a successful portfolio creation. All portfolios must be submitted no later than Tuesday, December 11 at 12:00PM.

1 The portfolio will serve as the assessment tool for the Philosophy program. Philosophy faculty will use the following learning goals (LG) to establish an ongoing assessment plan to evaluate student performance: